



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Nevada State Conservation Commission
Richard H. Bryan Building, Tahoe Hearing Room, 2nd Floor
901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
Friday, October 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

The Nevada State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items.

Board Members Present: Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD; Vice Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD; Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD and Kevin Roukey, Washoe-Storey CD.

Board Members Present by Telephone: Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD; Dr. Sherm Swanson, UNCE/CABNR; Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD; Meghan Brown, NV Dept. of Agriculture and Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD.

Others Present: Bettina Scherer, Conservation Districts Program Manager, Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office, Dominique Etchegoyhen, DCNR Deputy Director, Lori Story, Deputy Attorney General, Tim Rubald, previous CD Program Manager, Nancy Sicking, Paradise-Sonoma CD, Marlene Wallace, Esmeralda CD, J.P. Kiel, NV Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, and Jean Stone, NV Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning.

Others by Telephone: Connie Lee, NDOW, Landowner Incentive Programs, Shane Ammerman, Southern NV CD and Chris Magee, Southern NV CD.

I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- A. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 10:02 p.m.
A quorum was confirmed and introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

III. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the May 15, 2017 minutes, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***
- B. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the August 7, 2017 minutes, Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

IV. BRIEF UPDATE ON CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

- A. Program Manager Bettina Scherer said the new Winnemucca Conservation Staff Specialist will start on October 16th and her name is Melany Aten. She brings extensive skills and will be a benefit to the team.

The Humboldt River Basin Network will be hosting the Situation Assessment (SA) at different sites from December 5th through December 14th. If you want to set up an appointment please contact Mike Lunn or Laura Van Riper. Bettina said she can provide information also.

The NvACD Annual Meeting is November 7th and 8th at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, NV. There is no leadership training this year. The general session is November 7th and the tour and business meeting are on November 8th. Registration ends October 25th for the early registration rate and the block room rate.

Mr. Rubald said the State Technical Advisory Committee meeting is November 9th in the NRCS Office in Reno and will be video conferenced to all NV NRCS offices.

Chairman Sicking chose to move to Agenda Item number **VI** for the convenience of the participants on the phone.

VI. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORTS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Chairman Sicking said there were questions regarding Southern Nye CD and Southern Nevada CD. Southern Nevada was late with their reports, but did get them in last night.

Chris Magee with the Southern Nevada CD said the reports should have been submitted sooner. He added a lot of great projects are happening; Shane Ammerman with Southern Nevada CD said they have been working with Cooperative Extension and are working with the Clark County Commissioners for funding.

Bettina said Southern Nye CD did not fully expend their annual stipend so they cannot receive the entire stipend amount this fiscal year.

Commissioner Orr said she understood the problems that Southern Nevada CD has had, but they have good projects going and they deserve to move forward. Commissioner Smith agreed.

Chairman Sicking asked for a motion to find the Southern Nevada CD in good standing. Commissioner Roukey made the motion to find the Southern Nevada CD in good standing, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Chairman Sicking said Southern Nye CD is only allowed \$2800 of their amount, is there a motion? Commissioner Roukey moved that Southern Nye CD receive \$2800 this year, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Commissioner Tibbitts said shouldn't Southern Nye CD be awarded the additional \$500 that was approved by the Legislature. It was agreed and also agreed by the Commission's DAG Lori Story.

Commissioner Roukey rescinded the original motion and made a new motion to say that Southern Nye CD shall receive \$3300 this year, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

Chairman Sicking asked for a motion to find all districts in good standing. Commissioner Rieman made a motion to find all districts in good standing, Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DETERMINATION OF DISTRICTS' 'IN GOOD STANDING' STATUS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Tim Rubald pointed out that the remaining \$1200 that is not provided to the Southern Nye CD will need to be distributed among the other 27 districts. Commissioner Roukey made a motion to distribute the \$1200 not provided to Southern Nye CD evenly among the other 27 districts, Commissioner Rieman seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

V. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION - * FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. Chairman Sicking asked for nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Orr moved to nominate Joe Sicking for Chairman and Eric Rieman for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, there was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. ***ACTION TAKEN***

VIII. PERIODIC REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACTION PLAN - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

- A. It was agreed to move this item to the next Commission meeting in November. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

IX. AGENCY UPDATES - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

- A. Nevada Department of Agriculture – *Meghan Brown, Plant Industry Division* Commissioner Brown said we are working on the Western Invasive Species Plan and we would like endorsements and support from the CD's and commissions across the western United States. NDA is working on the final draft. We received funding for a new position related to drought and drought management. We also received some funds to help with water conservation infrastructure for agriculture producers.
- B. UNR-College of Agriculture Biotechnology and Natural Resources – *Dr. Sherm Swanson, Range and Riparian Extension State Specialist for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Scientist for Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station* Commissioner Swanson said he emailed Bettina and she forwarded an administrative report that has the bulk of his report.

Highlighted in the report are some new hires in CABNR: Dr. Bruna Alves in Reproductive Physiology, Melinda Yerka in Plant Breeding, Robert Washington-Allen in Range Management & Ecology, GIS, and Remote Sensing, and Jolyn Wirshing, Nutrition Lecturer.

The Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences has hired a Department Chair, Dr. Cushman, a Forest Ecology position, Sarah Bisbing, and an hydrologist, Jaivime Evaristo.

UNCE has hired Dr. Ivory Lyles, starting on November 1st, as the Director of UNCE and Associate Dean of Engagement. Dr. Lyles was the Dean of Land-Grant Programs at Alcorn State University and the Director of UNCE at the University of Arkansas.

Commissioner Swanson attended a meeting on grazing for ecosystem restoration and there was positive discussion about using fall grazing for managing fine fuels.

The Nevada Rangeland Management Handbook is out for comments.

The Society for Range Management Nevada Section Winter Meeting will be on November 16-17 at the Winnemucca Convention Center. This is a good source for learning about rangeland monitoring.

The Society for Range Management Annual Meeting will be January 27 to the February 1st at the Sparks Nugget. There will be an array of rangeland management and ecology programs, a trade show, and tours.

- C. Natural Resources Conservation Service – *Ray Dotson, State Conservationist* There was no report today.
- D. Nevada Department of Wildlife – *Connie Lee, Landowner Incentive Programs* Ms. Lee said the typical report that contains the division's reports (Game, Diversity, etc.) I can send you via email.

There are some changes with the Private Lands Program; it has been renamed the Private Lands 4 Wildlife Program which is replacing the Landowner Incentive Program.

An additional program is Corners for Quail which has a pilot area of Paradise, Quinn River, King's River Valley and Humboldt County. This program benefits upland game bird species including chukar, California quail, Gambel's Quail, Hungarian partridge and pheasant. The program works with landowners to plant their pivot corners with buffalo berry, rye, and other grasses and forbs. There is some compensation for the landowner.

NDOW has contracts with CD's for funding – these include Vya, Mason, Smith Valley, Northeast Elko and Southern Nye. As well as funding for private land efforts through coordination with the Landscape Coalition.

There is a contract with NDF for private lands work in collaboration with the Conservation Specialist in Ely, Lauren Williams, in Lincoln, Elko, and White Pine counties.

There is ongoing work on the West Walker River for bank stabilization and more conifer removal in the bi-state area in the Smith Valley CD and medusahead treatments.

- E. Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – *Maggie Orr, President* Commissioner Orr said NvACD has been awarded a grant of \$64,000 dollars from NRCS to revitalize the Local Work Group (LWG) process and the State Technical Advisory Committee. One of the deliverables identified was 6 CD's completing a full Resource Needs Assessment by the end of November 2019. There will be a survey to assist with the focal groups for information and UNR will help. To assist with the Resource Needs Assessment each of the 6-CD's participating will receive \$4,000.

Commissioner Orr attended the National Wild Horse & Burro Summit in Salt Lake City. The Stewart amendment for horse euthanasia has made it through the House and is on to the Senate. We would like to see work with Dept. of Agriculture and the Virginia Range horses.

We have updated the job description for NvACD Executive Director. We are preparing for the Annual Meeting on November 7th and 8th. Our Conservation Commission Meeting will be the evening of November 6th at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

One of our speakers at the Business Meeting is Wayne Carlson with Pool/Pact and he will talk about risk management and loss control.

Commissioner Orr and second vice-president Gary McCuin attended the southwest regional for the National Association of Conservation Districts in Tucson. Commissioner Orr met with Debbie Hughes, Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. She will come on Monday,

November 6th, to speak at the Nevada Collaboration Conservation Network Meeting at the Carson Valley Inn.

Commissioner Orr met with the Forest Service, Bill Dunkelberger and Cheva Gabor, and the BLM, Matt Magaletti, about revitalizing the commitments previously pledged to the RCPP efforts. Though the RCPP funds were not awarded in 2016, NvACD is still intent upon pursuing the CRMP process statewide. BLM and Forest Service have expressed that both agencies are still committed to the CRMP efforts.

NvACD sponsored the Stockmanship School at the Cottonwood Ranch and NvACD will sponsor the Nevada Cattleman's.

We are working with the NCCN for the coordinator position funded in part by the InterMountain West Joint Venture.

We have 26 confirmed sign-ups for the Conservation Client Gateway.

Please encourage your CD supervisors to attend the meeting in Minden on November 7th and 8th.

F. Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team – *Kelly McGowan, Program Manager* There was no report today.

G. Others – There were no other reports.

X. COMMISSIONER ITEMS - *FOR DISCUSSION ONLY*

A. Commissioner Roukey said he attended the Leadership Development Symposium in Lincoln, Nebraska. A main theme was improving the delivery of conservation. There was discussion of the importance of partnership and improving how to communicate purpose. There was talk about capacity building at the state level, building alliances, and improving communication. We also talked about connecting with younger users. Our CD's need county and city support which is common in the eastern CD's.

Bettina said the Humboldt River Basin Network will be discussed at the NvACD meeting. She also said that Ray Dotson and Julie Malvitz were out of state in travel status today and unable to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Roukey said he has 5000 fence markers for 0.33 each if anyone needs them.

Bettina said she sent out a call for stakeholder input on S. O. 3353 and the deadline to send comments into Kelly McGowan is October 18th.

XI. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

A. The next Commission Meeting will be November 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

B. Agenda Items will include reviewing the Strategic Plan, the Virginia Range wild horses, and discussing the fees structure and financial mechanisms available for CD's to pursue within their jurisdictional boundaries.

NO ACTION TAKEN

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chairman Sicking moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Roukey seconded the motion, there was a vote and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. ***ACTION TAKEN***